

Appl. No. 10/015,191  
Filed: 11/21/2001  
Atty Dkt No.: HM-69621

Thanh K. Truong, Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3721  
Title: MULTI-PURPOSE OFFICE TOOL

**Rule 111 Amendment "A" in Response to  
12/15/04 Office Action**

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**REMARKS**

Applicant had made a bona fide effort to correct informalities in the Specification and Claims. Additionally, applicant confirms the election to Group I, Claims 1-11. As such, Claims 12-20 of the withdrawn claims have been deleted. Claim 7 has also been deleted because its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 now indicates that the stapler base forms a portion of the tool housing bottom wall, and that the stapler actuating member is releasably attached to the housing. This arrangement provides a cooperating relationship between the housing and the stapler, allowing the stapler to be operated with the housing, which is advantageous due to the compactness of the tool.

New claims 21-29 also elaborate on the essential structures that permit the aforementioned cooperating relationship between the housing and stapler. In claim 21, basis for use of the term "peripheral walls" may be found in the specification on page 7, line 1.

In claim 23, the stapler "back end" and "open end" phraseologies are deemed inherent descriptors. The phrases have been incorporated into the specification on Page 14, lines 3 and 8.

From the above, it can be seen that when the base of the stapler forms a part of a peripheral wall of the housing, and the actuating member is attached to the housing, a user can utilize the base as a support. This may occur by simply squeezing the housing and base together with one's palm and fingers; or, by placing the overall housing and base upon an

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underlying support surface, such as a desk or a table, and then operate the stapler/actuating member by pushing down on the housing toward the base of the stapler.

The aforementioned construction also clearly distinguishes over Patent No. 4,807,744 to Chiou. In the Chiou patent, a housing is shown which simply provides an inner compartment for compact storage of a stapler. More particularly, note base 1 having a notch 11, which is sized to accommodate the insertion of stapler 2. It is clear that when placed within the aforementioned notch, the stapler is entirely inoperative and non-accessible to a user. Moreover, no part of the stapler forms a wall portion of the housing.

In a similar more decorative manner, the Tsuji Patent No. 4,753,346 reveals an automobile-shaped casing. An interior foam member 121 has a cut-out area 123 for stowing a stapler 125. The casing is overlaid with a shell having a top 107 that encloses the cut-out area and creates the appearance of an automobile. Clearly, the automobile-shaped casing cannot be used to operate the stapler stored therein. As such, this reference is inapposite to the present invention.

The Examiner has further cited Chiou, Tsuji and Padden Patent No. 6,009,584 as rendering claims 2-10 as obvious. However, Padden's disclosure makes no mention whatsoever of a stapler or using a stapler structure as part of a housing peripheral wall. Therefore, it is believed the combination of Padden with Chiou and Tsuji would not lead one skilled in the art to the present invention.

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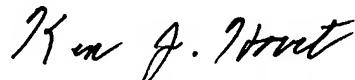
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The Examiner also has combined Chiou and Tsuji with Ng (6,145,994) in combination under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to reject claims 2-10. This rejection is most respectfully traversed on the basis that Ng's light bulb 30 extends outwardly from the periphery of the overall housing. In contradistinction, applicant's lighting means is mounted inside its housing and, illumination is directed through an aperture.

Additionally, claim 11 is dependent from claim 1, which has been amended to define the housing/stapler wall combination described above. Therefore, it is believed claim 11 should be allowable on that basis per se. Please also note that paragraph 8 of the Official Action did not reference claim 11, but discusses the lighting means set forth in claim 11. Thus, applicant is assuming the Examiner meant to reference claims 2-11 rather than claims 2-10.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and above discussion, it is believed that the new and amended claims set forth a novel and unobvious invention. As such, a Notice of Allowance is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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